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Amendments to the Claims.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims.

1. (Original) An electrode comprising a conductive material-doped ester-cured alkaline phenolic resole resin containing conducting alkaline salts.

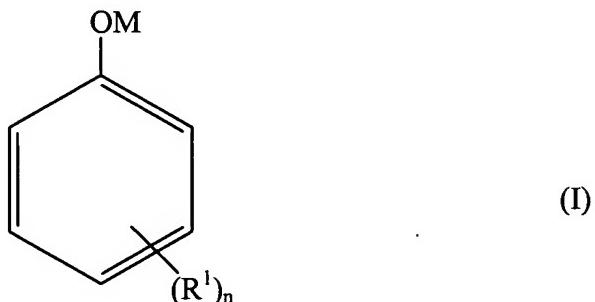
2. (Original) An electrode as claimed in claim 1 wherein the resin to conducting material weight ratio is from 0.001 to 100:1.

3. (Currently Amended) An electrode as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the conducting material comprises carbon and/or a non-carbon conductive filler.

4. (Original) An electrode as claimed in claim 3 wherein the carbon is in the form of graphite or an amorphous carbon and/or the non-carbon conductive filler is in the form of a metal, metal oxide, and/or metal-coated graphite and/or glass.

5. (Currently Amended) An electrode as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1 wherein the resin is a reaction product of an ester curing agent with a phenolic resole and a base.

6. (Original) An electrode as claimed in claim 5 wherein the phenolic resole is a reaction product of a phenol-reactive aldehyde with an alkaline compound of formula



wherein R¹ is a straight or branched chain optionally unsaturated alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms) optionally substituted by a halogen atom (preferably chlorine) or a hydroxy group, a halogen atom (preferably chlorine), a hydroxy group, and/or a phenyl or benzyl group (optionally substituted by a hydroxy group and/or a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms) optionally substituted by a halogen atom (preferably chlorine) or a hydroxy group);

M is a mixture of hydrogen ions and at least one further cation (preferably the at least one further cation is an alkali metal cation (preferably sodium, lithium or potassium), an alkaline earth metal cation (preferably barium, magnesium or calcium), and/or a N(R²)₄⁺ ion (wherein each R² is the same or different and is hydrogen or a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms)) wherein the molar ratio of hydrogen ions to the at least one further cation is sufficient for the pH to be greater than 7 and is preferably from 2:1 to 1:1; and

n is from 0 to 2.

7. (Original) An electrode as claimed in claim 6 wherein the phenol-reactive aldehyde is a compound of formula



wherein R represents hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain alkyl group having from 1 to 8 (preferably from 1 to 4, more preferably from 1 to 2, most preferably 1) carbon atoms; or a precursor of a compound of formula (II).

8. (Currently Amended) An electrode as claimed in claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~ wherein the phenol-reactive aldehyde is reacted with the compound of formula (I) in a ratio of from 1:1 to 1:3, preferably from 1:1.2 to 1:3, more preferably from 1:1.5 to 1:3.

9. (Currently Amended) An electrode as claimed in ~~any of claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5 wherein the ester curing agent is of formula



wherein R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms) optionally substituted by a halogen atom; and

R^4 represents a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms) optionally substituted by one or more hydroxy and/or R^3COO^- groups, or

a phenyl group optionally substituted by a straight or branched chain optionally unsaturated alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms) optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, a halogen atom (preferably chlorine), a hydroxy group, and/or a phenyl or benzyl group (optionally substituted by a hydroxy group and/or a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms (preferably from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 2 carbon atoms)); or

R^3 represents a chemical bond to R^4 and R^4 represents a straight or branched chain alkyl group containing from 2 to 10 carbon atoms (preferably from 2 to 4 carbon atoms).

10. (Currently Amended) An electrode as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the resin includes a plasticiser to increase flexibility of the resin.

11. (Original) An electrode substantially as hereinbefore described and/or as illustrated with reference to Figures 3 and/or 4 of the drawings.

12. (Original) A separator plate suitable for use in a fuel cell having one or more flow field for directing gas flow wherein the plate comprises an ester-cured alkaline phenolic resole resin containing conducting alkaline salts.

13. (Currently Amended) A separator plate as claimed in claim 12 wherein the resin is as defined in ~~any one of claims 2 to 11~~ claim 2.

14. (Original) A separator plate as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13 which has two flow fields.

15. (Original) A separator plate substantially as hereinbefore described and/or as illustrated with reference to Figures 4 and/or 5 of the drawings.

16. (Original) An electrolyte suitable for use in an electrical device which comprises an ester-cured alkaline phenolic resole resin containing conducting alkaline salts.

17. (Currently Amended) An electrolyte as claimed in claim 16 wherein the resin is as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11, preferably any one of claims 5 to 11~~ claim 1.

18. (Original) An electrical device comprising:

(a) a negative electrode;

(b) a positive electrode; and

(c) an electrolyte means; and optionally

(d) a separator and/or bipolar plate;

wherein one or more electrode, electrolyte and/or separator or bipolar plate comprises an ester-cured alkaline phenolic resole resin containing conducting alkaline salts.

19. (Currently Amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the resin is as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

20. (Currently Amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 18 ~~or claim 19~~ wherein the separator plate is as defined in ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12.

21. (Currently Amended) An electrical device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~ claim 18 which is a cell, a battery including two or more cells, or a capacitor.

22. (Currently Amended) The electrical device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 18 to 21~~ claim 18 wherein the electrolyte means is in the form of an electrolyte or it is arranged to receive an electrolyte.

23. (Original) The electrical device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the electrolyte means is in the form of a conduit through which an electrolyte could flow during operation of the cell or in the form of a container into which an electrolyte could be placed at least during operation of the cell.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

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29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)